



# Borough of Redcar

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1952

## ANNUAL REPORTS

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

H. PATTINSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

and the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Wm. TUTIN, A.R.S.I., M.I.P.C., M.S.I.A., M.I.H.



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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Redcar

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my third annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough.

I should like to record my thanks for the help and encouragement given to me throughout the year by the Chairman of the Health Committee Alderman R. J. Gillingham, and by other members of the Health Committee. To the Heads of other departments I am again indebted for their continued co-operation and good advice, while to Mr. William Tutin, Chief Sanitary Inspector whose report follows mine, I owe a special debt as his invaluable help has always been available and freely given. My own staff both Borough and County Council employees have at all times worked together in a friendly atmosphere and their joint efforts have been of the greatest assistance to me.

During this year generally health was well maintained within the Borough. Living conditions continued to improve slowly and the year was noteworthy for a marked reduction in the number of complaints about unpleasant atmospheric odours, which were in fact noticed on only a few occasions. It is to be hoped that continued consultation between the council and local industrial undertakings will achieve even better results in the future. Provided that smoke is not black, has no noticeable odour, and does not have too great an effect on the family washing, there is a tendency for the public to become inured to its presence, even in fairly high concentration in the air. Unfortunately, it is often the invisible and odourless content of industrial and domestic smoke which is thought to be the most harmful to health.

We are fortunate in this area in having a vigorous branch of the Smoke Abatement Society on Tees-side, which is well supported by the local authorities, and I have the highest opinion of the work which is being done. Great progress has been made in analysing the problem on Tees-side, and in the not too distant future comprehensive and detailed facts and figures ought to be sufficient to convince even the most sceptical that better methods are essential in the combustion of fuel both industrial and domestic, but what then? The problems to be encountered are enormous and I mention but one of the difficulties which appears to me to be one of the greatest which will have to be overcome. It is the apparent inability of this country to produce an efficient smokeless fuel in reasonable quantity and at a reasonable cost. Unfortunately the quality of fuel seems to get worse, particularly in the domestic sphere, and it is futile to expect modern fuel appliances to make up for this deficiency. The economic problems involved are obvious, but it is difficult to believe that a solution is impossible in a country which led the way for so long in this sphere.

Smoke abatement is obviously of paramount importance to this Borough being a holiday resort adjoining a vast industrial belt which is daily increasing in size. Nothing less than the preservation of the health of the people and the amenities of the town are at stake.

Your obedient servant,

H. PATTINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.



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## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	7,035
Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid-1952)	...					27,350
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...		8,266
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£195,145
Estimated product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...		£790

\* \* \*

## VITAL STATISTICS

TABLE I

		Male	Female	Total			
<b>Live Births</b>	...	226	235	461	—	Rate per 1,000 population	16.9
Legitimate	...	220	225	445			
Illegitimate	...	6	10	16			
<b>Still Births</b>							
Legitimate	...	6	4	10	—	Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births	21.2
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—		Rate per 1,000 total births	Nil
Deaths from Puerperal causes				Nil	—	Rate per 1,000 total births	Nil
Deaths of Legitimate Infants under							
1 year of age	...	...	...	10	—	Rate per 1,000 live births	21.7
Deaths of Illegitimate infants							
under 1 year of age	...	...	...	Nil	—	Rate per 1,000 live births	Nil
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea							
under 2 years of age	...	...	...	1	—	Rate per 1,000 live births	2.2
Notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia				Nil	—	Rate per 1,000 total births	Nil



TABLE II

**BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, AND  
CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1952**

Rates per 1,000 of the Civilian Population

			England and Wales	160 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
<b>Births</b>			Redcar			
Live Births	...	*17.4	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6
Still Births	...	0.37	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34
<b>Deaths</b>						
All Causes	...	*12.6	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid (Enteric Fever)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	...	0.15	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31
Influenza	...	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05
Pneumonia	...	0.30	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58
Acute Poliomyelitis		0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
<b>Notifications</b>						
Typhoid	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid	...	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Meningococcal infection		0.00	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Scarlet Fever	...	2.70	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56
Whooping Cough	...	3.73	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66
Diphtheria	...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	...	0.08	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14
Smallpox	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	...	22.63	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23
Pneumonia	...	1.06	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	...	0.12	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)		0.00	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Food Poisoning	...	0.08	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18
Puerperal Pyrexia		0.00	17.87	23.94	10.22	30.77

\*Corrected Birth and Death Rates



TABLE III  
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

					Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...		1	3
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...		—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...		—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...		—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...		—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...		—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...		—	—
Measles	...	...	...		—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...			2	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...			8	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...			8	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...			—	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...			—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...				19	20
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...			—	1
Diabetes	...	...			—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...			19	27
Coronary disease, angina	...	...			34	17
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...			3	2
Other heart disease	...	...			32	44
Other circulatory disease	...	...			10	6
Influenza	...	...			1	—
Pneumonia	...	...			8	—
Bronchitis	...	...			3	3
Other disease of respiratory system	...	...			1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...			1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...			—	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...			—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...			2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...			—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...			—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...			14	17
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...			1	—
All other accidents	...	...			2	2
Suicide	...	...			1	1
Homicide and operations of war	...	...			—	—
All causes					170	163

TABLE IV  
INFANT DEATHS

Rates per 1,000 Live Births						
	Redcar	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	
<b>Deaths</b>						
All causes under 1 year of age ... ..	21.7	27.6	31.2	25.8	23.8	
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	2.2	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7	

\* \* \*

### COMMENTARY ON STATISTICS

During the year, Infant Mortality was at a very low level and well below the national average. This is the most pleasing figure contained in the statistics and it is greatly to be hoped that this improvement will be maintained. 70 per cent of the infant deaths were neonatal and in 70 per cent prematurity and/or congenital malformations were the prime cause. Jaundice, gastro-enteritis and broncho-pneumonia accounted for the remaining three deaths.

### Table III

The preponderance of circulatory and malignant diseases as a cause of death among the general population is again apparent. Cancer deaths can be divided into three groups of equal size according to age at death as follows:—Ages 0 to 59, 60 to 69, and 70 years and over. All such deaths are to be deplored, but more particularly those within the two lower age groups which constitute two-thirds of the total. In the first group are many who have adolescents in their family who miss their guidance at a vital period in their lives, while financial security is often jeopardised when a parent dies before the age of sixty years. The second group, while more nearly attaining to the three score years and ten, would often otherwise have lived much longer to enjoy a deserved retirement while still fit enough to give service in their own way to their relatives, friends and fellow citizens. Newer and better methods for the treatment of cancer continue to be found despite the lack of knowledge concerning the basic cause, but the need for early diagnosis and treatment is more essential than ever to obtain good results. Only a well informed public with the strength of mind to seek advice at the first suspicious sign can lower these depressing figures.

## NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

			1952 Population 27,350	1951 Population 27,280	1950 Population 27,500	1949 Population 27,310
Scarlet Fever	...	...	72	26	21	42
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0	1	1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	0	0	0	0
Paratyphoid	...	...	0	1	0	0
Measles	...	...	619	248	609	91
Whooping Cough	...	...	102	103	162	41
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	0	3	1	0
Erysipelas	...	...	2	2	4	1
Pneumonia	...	...	29	38	17	12
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	0	0	0	0
Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	2	1	4	1
Polio-encephalitis	...	...	0	1	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	29	16	21	12
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	7	4	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	1	0	0	0
Dysentery	...	...	3	0	3	0
Food Poisoning	...	...	2	3	0	0

\* \* \*

## NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1952

Male Age Groups								Female Age Groups								
0-	10-	20-	30-	40-	50-	60-	Tot.	0-	10-	20-	30-	40-	50-	60-	Tot.	Tot.
2	1	6	2	2	2	1	16	1	2	2	5	4	4	2	20	36
29 Pulmonary								7 Non-Pulmonary								

\* \* \*

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Full Course	313	440	301	459	475
Reinforcing dose	410	391	253	394	268
	<u>723</u>	<u>831</u>	<u>554</u>	<u>853</u>	<u>743</u>



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The pattern over the year was much as usual but significant increases occurred in the numbers of measles, scarlet fever, and tuberculosis notifications.

### Measles

This disease was epidemic at the end of the year in particular, and corresponded closely with the epidemic of 1950. A biennial periodicity is frequently noted. No deaths were reported but by its very numbers, it leads to a fair number of children being in delicate health for many months after an epidemic is over, and an efficient anti-viral agent against infection would be of great benefit.

### Scarlet Fever

Notifications were nearly treble the previous year, but the attacks were very mild and complications were not seen. The majority of cases appeared to be mild streptococcal throats with a fleeting rash which gave rise to difficulties in diagnosis and notification. Advice on both the latter points was frequently sought by general practitioners, who gave great co-operation to the Health Department in this matter. There is little doubt that during the year there was a mild but persistent outbreak of sore throats, affecting mainly but not entirely children. Some had rashes which without doubt merited a notification of scarlet fever but the vast majority had either no rash or one that was so fleeting that only the faint remains were seen by a doctor. The difficulty of the problem was the fact that even the mildest looking cases appeared to be quite as infectious as the classical scarlet fever. As luck would have it, quite a few of the adult cases and close contacts worked in one or other branch of the catering and food trades, which gave rise to some concern, but fortunately it was usually possible to come to an amicable arrangement between the management and the worker in these cases and there was never any suggestion that food or drink had been contaminated or was the cause of these cases.

### Tuberculosis

Notifications were nearly double the previous year. The visit of the Mass Radiography Unit to Redcar after a lapse of several years undoubtedly contributed to this increase, and I am glad to say that a fair proportion of these cases were early and therefore should respond excellently to treatment. This does not, however, alter the fact that the disease is common enough in this locality. Young adults of both sexes were as usual the chief sufferers but the preponderance of cases among older women rather than older men is unusual. During the year, facilities for treatment were good, and waiting periods were shorter than in former years. All contacts were visited and advised to have a check-up. The response was fairly good but it is difficult for anyone not faced with such a situation to understand why the response was not 100 per cent. On the whole, the aged are the most difficult to persuade which is unfortunate, as one aged infected grandparent can easily be the cause of a tragedy to his or her grandchildren. Personal hygiene is of paramount importance in a house where a tubercular person is living and on occasions the habits of patients leave something to be desired. I think the public should realise that good housing alone is not enough to eradicate the spread of tuberculosis. A good diet and hygienic living are the essentials and while they are easier to practise under good housing conditions, they do not automatically follow but must be learnt and be actively encouraged by every member of the family. Despite this large increase in notifications, it is satisfactory to see that the death rate from this disease remains at a low level.



## CLINIC FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN REDCAR

Details of various clinics held in the area are given below :—

### **No. 5 Turner Street, Redcar**

Anti-natal Clinic—Tuesdays 1-0 p.m.

Post-natal Clinic—Second Tuesday in month 10-0 a.m.

Child Welfare Sessions—Thursdays, 2-0 p.m.

Minor Ailments Clinics for school children—

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9-30 a.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation—Mondays and Fridays, 9-30 a.m., Thursdays, 2 p.m.

Orthopaedic Consultant's Clinics—Second Thursday in month 10-30 a.m.

Dental Sessions—As and when arranged.

Speech Clinics—Every Tuesday, 9-0 a.m. (by appointment).

Ophthalmic Consultant's Sessions—Friday, 2-0 p.m. (by appointment).

Other clinics held in the town are :—

### **Dormanstown Methodist Schoolroom**

Ante-natal Clinic—Thursday fortnightly, 1-30 p.m.

Child Welfare Sessions—Every Wednesday, 2-0 p.m.

### **Dormanstown Infants School**

Diphtheria Immunisation—Second Thursday in each month, 9-30 a.m. to  
10-30 a.m.

## HOUSING

	1952	1951	1950
Permanent Houses completed by the Local Authority ...	130	88	118
Permanent Houses completed by Private Builders ...	14	19	13
Temporary Houses completed by the Local Authority ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Aged Persons Houses completed by the Local Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil
	<hr/> 144	<hr/> 107	<hr/> 131
Permanent Houses under construction by Local Authority at end of year ... ..	166	176	72
Permanent Houses under construction by Private Builders at end of year ... ..	12	6	6
Temporary Houses under construction by Local Authority at end of year ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Aged Persons Houses under construction by Local Authority at end of year ... ..	12	Nil	Nil
	<hr/> 190	<hr/> 182	<hr/> 78
Total number of applicants for Houses at end of year	1,346	1,300	1,208
Total number of applicants for Aged Persons Homes at end of year ... ..	195	196	166
*Total number of applicants for Huts at end of year ...	40	57	43

\*These are included in total number of applicants for Houses.

It will be seen that steady progress continues to be made in the erection of new houses. Unfortunately, waiting lists are still as long as ever and it must also be remembered that many people living in sub-standard property are not applicants for council houses, and in fact a number of clearance areas which could easily be justified would create immense problems of re-housing at the present time .

I should like to see the Borough Council's housing programme assisted to a greater degree by the comprehensive and early repair of many types of sub-standard property which for the last fifteen years have been in various stages of fairly rapid decay. Legislation to facilitate such work by owners and/or local authorities is long overdue. An increase in the number of houses built by industrial undertakings for their workers would appear to be a most desirable object in this area and when labour and materials are more easily available I hope that such undertakings will be able to contribute not a little to the housing programme. In the meantime, the best use has to be made of what accommodation is available, and tolerance between landlords and tenants, tenants and sub-tenants, landladies and lodgers, and parents and married children has to be stretched to the limit and often beyond. Inevitably, with the local increase in population and the influx of workers to industry on Tees-side, cases of overcrowding are common and apt to develop fairly suddenly in the case of new families entering the area. While it is only right that a balance must be kept between such cases and the ordinary applicants for houses, I notice a tendency in some quarters to question the degree of priority accorded



to families who are overcrowded, even though they are local residents of long standing. Objections are chiefly on the grounds that these families are stepping above many others who have been on the housing list for many more years, but such effects are implicit in a system of allocation which takes some account of the degree of need of the various applicants. Doubtless the abolition of all special cases would ease the burden of both the councillors and officials, but there will always be cases whose denial of reasonable priority would be a denial of all those things for which the Health Departments of local authorities have for many years been campaigning. No permanent advance in the standard of healthy living can be expected among those who are living under the worst conditions and it can be argued that money spent on members of such families by education and health authorities is to some extent wasted when housing conditions are so bad that full use of such facilities cannot be made.

The word "overcrowding" has been in the forefront of housing committee debates for so many years that the true picture represented by it has a tendency to become blurred, and I make no apology for re-stating the reasons why I consider it to be still a major reason for some degree of priority.

(1) The increased tendency for the spreading of major and minor infectious diseases. In this connection, it should be emphasised that it is the minor conditions which give rise to the greatest degree of unfitness on account of their frequency, e.g. the common cold and throat infections are particularly liable to spread easily in overcrowded families.

(2) The increased difficulty of proper house cleaning which leads to an increased danger of infestation which is often difficult to abate under such circumstances.

(3) Food storage and general food hygiene is generally extremely bad and it is difficult to improve it under such circumstances.

(4) There is a lack of privacy which is particularly detrimental to adolescents and is also most distressing to anyone with a retiring personality. There is a great danger of a lowering of family standards of decency, discipline and morality which in effect cannot but have an undesirable effect on the mental health of the whole household.

(5) There is a sense of frustration among young housewives who have to work under such conditions and the education of their children, both formal and informal, is retarded and their training in hygienic practices frequently impossible.

Cases of deliberate overcrowding to obtain advantages on housing lists do occur, but are not common, and the vast majority of overcrowding results from natural increases in the family of young married couples who have always lived with one or other parent. I deprecate the attitude not uncommonly expressed that these young people should not be allowed by their parents to stay with them until they can be adequately re-housed either through their own efforts or by reaching the top of the council's housing list. Should those young people be prevented from living with their parents, they will merely join the ranks of other categories needing special consideration, i.e. overcrowded tenants or sub-tenants of sub-standard property, or lodgers in furnished rooms where happy family life and the proper upbringing of children are usually most difficult.

It is becoming obvious that finances both at national and local levels are increasingly embarrassed by the demands of Housing, Education, and the National Health Service, and there is developing great competition between them for the largest possible share of money available. From a health point of view these three are indivisible and any marked decline in the one will ultimately prejudice the results achieved by the others. If all the protagonists of each service would rule their actions with this in mind it is not impossible that each could concentrate on essential advances only, thus enabling all to advance together without the necessity for frequent and repeated cuts and alterations in their programmes which are so much to be deplored. Essentials are, of course, subject to endless arguments, but efficiency and value for money available, with a clear discrimination between immediate and ultimate objectives, should be capable of realisation.

\* \* \*

### **WATER SAMPLES**

Supplies continue to be drawn from the same three sources as previously—our own reservoir, the Tees Valley Water Board and the Cleveland Water Company.

Examples of the findings of bacteriological and chemical analyses are given in the following tables and apart from the hardness of some of the samples the results were satisfactory.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer for the details of water analyses.



# REPORT ON BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SAMPLES FROM VARIOUS POINTS ON THE SUPPLY

Date of Sample	Where taken	Colonies from 1 c.c. on Agar in 3 days at — 20° C.	Colonies from 1 c.c. on Agar in 2 days at — 37° C.	Coliform Organisms	Cl. Welchii
1st January, 1952	Reservoir Outlet	9 per ml.	1 per ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
4th March, 1952	24 Tod Point Road, Warrenby	30 per ml.	7 per ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Present in 100 ml. Absent from 10 ml.
4th March, 1952	Tunnel	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
4th March, 1952	Reservoir Outlet	8 per ml.	0 per ml.	Present in 100 ml. Absent from 50 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
29th April, 1952	Reservoir Outlet	1 per ml.	0 per ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
27th May, 1952	20 Elm Road, Redcar	24 per ml.	2 per ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
27th May, 1952	90 Broadway West, Dormanstown	4 per ml.	4 per ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Present in 100 ml. Absent from 10 ml.
27th May, 1952	Spring, Upleatham	1 per ml.	1 per ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
1st July, 1952	Reservoir Outlet	1 per ml.	1 per ml.	Present in 20 ml. Absent from 10 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
2nd September, 1952	Tunnel	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
2nd September, 1952	15 Tod Point Road, Warrenby	400 per ml.	351 per ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Present in 100 ml. Absent from 10 ml.
2nd September, 1952	12 Ely Crescent, Redcar	76 per ml.	28 per ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
30th September, 1952	Reservoir Outlet	2 per ml.	2 per ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
28th October, 1952	Reservoir Outlet	4 per ml.	0 per ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
25th November, 1952	Cleveland, Upleatham	4 per ml.	1 per ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
25th November, 1952	20 Elm Road, Redcar	7 per ml.	0 per ml.	Absent from 100 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.
30th December, 1952	Reservoir Outlet	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	Present in 100 ml. Absent from 50 ml.	Absent from 100 ml.

**SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER SAMPLES  
FROM VARIOUS POINTS ON THE SUPPLY**

Date of Sample	1.1.52	4.3.52	4.3.52	27.5.52	27.5.52	1.7.52	2.9.52	28.10.52	25.11.52	25.11.52
Where taken	Reservoir Outlet	24 Tod Point Road	Reservoir Outlet	20 Elm Road	Tunnel	Reservoir Outlet	Cleveland Upneatham	Reservoir Outlet	90 Broadway West	Tunnel
Turbidity, parts per million Silica Scale . . . . .	Less than 3	Less than 3	Less than 3	Less than 3	7	3	Less than 3	4	Less than 3	Less than 3 increas'g to 7
Reaction pH . . . . .	7.8	7.3	7.6	7.3	6.9	7.8	7.1	7.6	7.0	6.9
Total solids dried at 180°C .	380	80	440	450	1270	480	125	490	90	1240
Free Carbonic Acid . . . . .	Trace	Trace	7	9	59	4	5	5	4	60
Chlorine as Chlorides . . . . .	28	8	29	28	34	31	16	33	7	35
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	90	30	120	125	325	135	45	140	30	330
Hardness—Total . . . . .	265	45	315	330	880	340	60	355	45	900
Hardness—Temporary . . . . .	90	30	120	125	325	135	45	140	30	330
Nitrogen as Nitrates . . . . .	1.2	0.6	1.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0
Nitrogen as Nitrites . . . . .	Less than 0.01	Approx. 0.01	Less than 0.01	Approx. 0.01	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	Approx. 0.01	Less than 0.01	Approx. 0.1	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen . . . . .	0.48	0.091	0.46	0.12	0.12	0.30	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.14
Albuminoid Nitrogen . . . . .	0.046	0.025	0.030	0.040	0.00	0.08	0.013	0.10	0.059	0.00
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C . . . . .	1.2	4.9	0.80	0.60	0.20	0.50	1.5	1.7	9.7	0.15
Metals—Iron . . . . .	0.11	0.12	0.05	0.15	0.52	0.21	0.16	0.28	0.20	0.76
Manganese . . . . .	0.10	Absent	0.16	0.07	0.07	0.21	Less than 0.03	0.32	Absent	1.1
Lead . . . . .	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Free Chlorine parts per million	0.70	Absent	0.40	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	0.15	Absent	Absent

**FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948**

## 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	56	171	10
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	7	20	1
Total ...	63	191	11

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Number of cases in which defects were found					
		Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	...	8	8	—	5
Unreasonable Temperature ...	...	4	4	—	1
Inadequate Ventilation ...	...	3	3	—	1
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	...	5	5	—	1
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ...	...	1	1	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	...	1	1	—	—
Total ...	...	22	22	—	9







ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR 1952

by

W. TUTIN,  
A.R.S.I., M.I.P.C., M.S.I.A., M.I.H.,

Certificated Meat and Food Inspector (R.S.I.),  
Chief Sanitary Inspector and  
Cleansing Superintendent.



## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1952

### To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Redcar.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Herewith I present my Annual Report recording the work of your Sanitary and Cleansing Department for the year 1952.

This has been a year of trying to gain ground to make up for that lost since the war. We have concentrated chiefly on house repair work and many difficulties have been encountered owing to the low rents owners receive from their properties, together with the increased cost of work carried out. Nevertheless, much headway has been made with general repairs of an urgent nature.

In connection with food premises, a general improvement in the hygiene standard has taken place. I am looking forward to the day when all cakes sold will be protected by being packed in dustproof wrappers at the place of manufacture.

### Inspections

The following is a tabulated statement of the number of inspections made during the year under review :—

Total number of inspections	...	...	...	5041
Total number of re-inspections	...	...	...	5200
Total number of nuisances found				
(including 20 outstanding 1951)	...	...	...	5083
Total number of nuisances abated	...	...	...	5032
Total number of Informal Notices				
(including verbal and written notices)	...	...	...	5059
Total number of Statutory Notices	...	...	...	6
Total number of Informal Notices complied with				5032
Total number of Statutory Notices complied with				Nil
Total number of Informal Notices outstanding				27
Total number of Statutory Notices outstanding				2

### Sanitary Works and Improvements

Dilapidated dust bins	...	...	...	220
Choked drains	...	...	...	292
Choked and defective eave spouts	...	...	...	161
Choked sewers	...	...	...	30
Defective flushing apparatus	...	...	...	16
Keeping of animals, poultry, etc.,				
in an insanitary condition	...	...	...	15
Defective construction of drains	...	...	...	4
Dirty condition of dwellinghouses	...	...	...	20
Dirty condition of water closets, urinals, etc.	...	...	...	21
Accumulation of rubbish	...	...	...	32
Dirty condition of yards	...	...	...	3
Defective roofs	...	...	...	24
Defective floors of dwellinghouses	...	...	...	19
Defective and insanitary condition of sinks	...	...	...	9
Defective W.C. basins	...	...	...	8

Choked street gullies	...	...	...	108
Defective set-pots	...	...	...	2
Defective paving of yards	...	...	...	5
Defective Fire Places	...	...	...	12
Premises in a verminous condition	...	...	...	112
Overcrowded condition of premises	...	...	...	211
Choked and defective rain water pipes	...	...	...	11
Broken plaster work	...	...	...	18
Premises in need of lime-washing	...	...	...	7
Offensive smells	...	...	...	411
Insufficient sink accommodation	...	...	...	3
Defective construction of windows	...	...	...	12
External walls requiring re-pointing	...	...	...	172
Choked and defective waste pipes	...	...	...	24
Defective and dangerous condition of outbuildings	...	...	...	2

### **Infectious Diseases and Disinfection**

Number of infected houses	...	...	...	110
Number of infected houses disinfected	...	...	...	110
Number of schools disinfected	...	...	...	16
Number of classrooms disinfected	...	...	...	59

### **Factories and Workshops**

Number of inspections of factories and workshops	...	...	...	191
Number of nuisances found	...	...	...	22
Number of nuisances abated	...	...	...	22
Number of complaints from H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	9

### **Bakehouses**

Number of bakehouses on Register	...	...	...	34
Number of notifications received from H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	6
Number of notifications dealt with	...	...	...	6
Number of bakehouses added to Register	...	...	...	Nil
Number of bakehouses removed from Register	...	...	...	Nil
Number of nuisances discovered and dealt with	...	...	...	10
Number of inspections	...	...	...	152

### **Dairies and Milkshops**

Number on Register	...	...	...	53
Number discontinued during the year	...	...	...	Nil
Number of inspections	...	...	...	241
Number of notices dealt with	...	...	...	27

### **Public Conveniences**

All the conveniences have been cleansed and disinfected daily, and those which are not recommended for renewal or alterations have been tiled and greatly improved. I regret reconstruction of our main conveniences, those situated along the sea front and the Stray car park, has not yet taken place. This work is well overdue and should in my opinion be treated as urgent.



## Water Supply

There are three main sources of supply, namely : —

1. Bulk supply from the Tees Valley Water Board. This water is received at the Meter House, Lazenby Siding, at the western boundary of the Borough. It is distributed to Dormanstown and that part of the Borough west of West Dyke Road. The maximum quantity available is two million gallons in any one week, and the water is soft in character.

2. Bulk supply from the Cleveland Water Company. The supply from the Company is received at the Corporation Reservoir, Upleatham, and after mixing with other water is treated by chloramination and filtration. It is distributed to the whole or part of the Borough, as the circumstances demand from time to time. The water is soft in character and the pressure is sufficient to supply all parts of the Borough. The quantity available is 250,000 gallons per day, although during times of drought this has been considerably reduced.

3. Corporation Upleatham Reservoir. This storage is fed by an Adit and also a Spring, together delivering approximately 250,000 gallons per day. These waters are mixed with that supplied by the Company and treated by chloramination and filtration prior to distribution to the whole or part of the Borough. The water from the Adit is very hard in character whilst that from the Spring is soft, and the water at the outlet to the reservoir, as a result of the mixture of the two supplies, is hard in character.

## Shops Act

	Number of Defects found	Number Remedied	Number Outstanding
Rooms not at reasonable temperature	2	2	Nil
Lack of ventilation ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	2	2	Nil
Lack of accommodation for taking meals	4	3	1
Insufficient washing accommodation	3	3	Nil
Provision of hot water ... ..	2	2	Nil

## Ice Cream Manufacturers and Dealers

Under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, all premises used for the manufacture, sale or storage of Ice Cream have to be registered. The number on the Register in the Borough of Redcar at the end of the year was

Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Nuisances found	Number of Nuisances dealt with	Number of Samples taken
114	142	5	5	18

All additional registrations which number eight were of retailing pre-packed Ices. Samples have been taken chiefly from retailers of loose ices and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Northallerton, for analysis. All samples proved to be satisfactory. The general standard of premises used in the Borough in connection with the manufacture of ice cream is very high.

Under the same Section as above, all premises used for the manufacture of sausages and potted meats have to be registered. The following is a record of Registrations for this purpose. All premises are periodically inspected and have been found to be well managed.

Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Nuisances found	Number of Nuisances dealt with	Number of Samples taken
26	91	9	9	Nil

### **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949**

During the year two sewer campaigns were carried out in the Borough and from the results obtained it was found that the poison takes were very small. 262 manholes were baited, and out of this number only 27 poison takes were recorded. All the agricultural property within the Borough was inspected for rats and in only one case was poison used. The public are still 'rat and mice' minded and complaints of these vermin are noted in this department and then handed over to the Rodent Operators. The town has been divided into two parts, east of the clock and west of the clock so that each Rodent Operator has his own district and is responsible for same, thus there is no overlapping of work. Up to the present this scheme has worked very satisfactorily.

### **Summer Camps**

There are in the Borough of Redcar three registered camping sites. These are occupied chiefly during the summer months. All are well catered for as regards sanitary arrangements and water supply, and the conditions attached to the licences are carried out in a satisfactory manner. The camps in each case are in charge of a Resident Manager.

### **Disinfestation**

92 privately owned dwelling houses were found to require treatment for vermin infestation during the year. The treatment was by means of stripping of wallpaper and skirting boards, before spraying with a strong D.D.T. solution, in conjunction with fumigation. Action taken proved to be satisfactory.

### **Disinfection of Premises**

112 premises wherein cases of infectious disease had occurred were disinfected by formalin fumigation. In addition 59 schoolrooms were disinfected by spraying.

### **Markets**

The weekly market continues to be held on the site situated in Portland Terrace. In my opinion this site is an improvement on the previous High Street site. There are public conveniences and water supply close at hand for the use of stall holders and the public visiting the market. The stalls occupying the market chiefly comprise vegetables and fruit. The site is cleansed each Saturday immediately after closing down.

### **Housing (Overcrowding)**

As in the past years we have carried out many inspections of council houses in connection with allocation and exchanges. Our chief concern has been to reduce overcrowding in older houses and to check up on cleanliness of new houses. I am pleased to say that the overcrowding conditions are now showing signs of improvement and the general cleanliness of the new houses is well maintained.

### **Squatters Camps**

We have still two squatters camps comprising of 25 huts in all, 3 on the Green Lane site and 22 on Biddy Camp site. The Green Lane camp will I think soon be a thing of the past as it is gradually being cleared. Biddy Camp is situated on the Eastern boundary of the Borough and is fast becoming derelict through damage to buildings and its general neglected condition. Buildings which only a few years back were ideal as living quarters are fast becoming unsuitable due to general dilapidations.



## Places of Entertainment

We have in Redcar 3 picture houses, 1 theatre and 12 dancehalls. These have been inspected periodically during the year, with a view to checking up on the sanitary arrangements. All are adequately supplied and well maintained.

## Atmospheric Pollution

Meetings of the Tees-side Smoke Abatement Society have continued to be held during the year with good results. I find the discussions held at these meetings are of a very useful and helpful nature as by different authorities working together with one object in mind many problems arise and are thrashed out, which will be of great advantage to all in the future.

Action taken in the Borough of Redcar during 1952 to reduce atmospheric pollution was :—

1. Joint Committee was formed with Eston Urban District Council to keep abreast with industrial development in the two areas with special reference to atmospheric pollution.
2. Planning permission was given to the I.C.I. Ltd. Wilton to erect a destructor for combustible process residues.
3. Advice given and re-arrangement of tipping procedure at Warrenby Works.
4. All newly erected council houses were fitted with smokeless fuel burning grates.

## Meat and Food Inspection

The same procedure with regard to meat inspection was carried out in 1952 as operated throughout the control period i.e. all home killed supplies are quartered and dressed at the Government slaughterhouse, Middlesbrough and allocations are then delivered to Redcar Distributing Depot in properly covered vehicles. All meat passed through the local depot is examined periodically. All meat and food preparing shops are visited regularly.

The following is a summary of meat and other food stuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :—

Home Killed Meat	...	52½ lbs.	Mussels	...	...	4	galls.
Home Killed Meat	...	118 lbs.	Salmon	...	...	11	tins
Boiled Ham	...	846 lbs.	Crabs	...	...	1	box
Mincemeat	...	43 lbs.	Shrimps	...	...	8	bags
Cows' Heels	...	36 lbs.	Kippers	...	...	1	box
Canned Beef	...	174 lbs.	Lobster	...	...	7	tins
Chicken	...	31 lbs.	Meat Paste	...	...	12	jars
Irish Stew	...	5 tins	Apples	...	...	32	tins
Black Pudding	...	64 lbs.	Prunes	...	...	276	lbs.
Meat Pies	...	192 lbs.	Plums	...	...	188	lbs.
Pressed Pork	...	8½ lbs.	Tomatoes	...	...	175	tins
Fat	...	56 lbs.	Peas	...	...	79	lbs.
Rabbits	...	7½ lbs.	Tomato Ketchup	...	...	13	bottles
Turkey	...	44 lbs.	Salad Cream	...	...	118	bottles
Jellied Veal	...	25 lbs.	Evaporated Milk	...	...	14	tins
Sausage	...	6 lbs.	Cheese	...	...	38	packets
Eggs	...	400	Misc. Tinned Foods	...	...	506	tins
Tripe	...	40 lbs.	Misc. Packed Goods	...	...	76	packets
Fish	...	61	stone				

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE**

The Cleansing Service of the Borough is the direct responsibility of your Sanitary Department. This service includes refuse collection and disposal, street cleansing, sewer flushing, gully cleansing and recovery of salvaged materials. The cleansing work of any town is in my opinion the most important branch of public service, not only from a health aspect, but also on account of its high cost with no chance of any financial return. The big drawback to this service is the great difficulty we have in obtaining suitable labour. Our experience in Redcar is common with other authorities in as much as the cleansing service does not attract the best type of workman. With new industries opening up all round men are attracted by the possibility of getting work offering more overtime and therefore bigger wage packets at the weekend. An outstanding factor responsible for the increase in the cost of the cleansing service is the type of house built during the past few years, especially in connection with refuse collection where the length of carry for the bins has been greatly increased with a considerable reduction in the number of bins collected daily.

### **Refuse Collection**

During the year we have maintained a weekly collection of refuse from all dwellinghouses within the Borough. We have had a few complaints about bins being left over on bank holidays when all men are off duty. The occasional missing would not be noticed if during the remainder of the year the service did not work with clock work precision. The advantages of a regular weekly service greatly outweigh the slight disadvantage which arises at holiday periods. All refuse from hotels, cafes and fish shops is removed daily.

### **Refuse Disposal**

We continue to dispose of all our refuse by controlled tipping on the low lying land leased from Messrs. Dorman, Long & Co. Ltd. situate on the Trunk Road. The area is ideal for this type of tipping and in time will make useless land useful. The muledozer in use on the tip is doing good work by means of consolidating the refuse and the saving of labour.

### **Street Cleansing**

Street cleansing is still carried out by the 'beat' system. All main roads are covered by the mechanical sweeping machine. With the introduction of new roads on the new housing estates, the amount of sweeping has increased considerably. County roads have been continually swept and weeded. The cost of this County road work is borne jointly by the County Council and your own authority.

### **Gully Cleansing**

The gully cleansing machine continues to give good service in connection with gully cleansing and sewer flushing. The machine is being overworked by the extra sewers and gullies installed on the new estates. All street gullies are emptied and recharged approximately once in every seven or eight weeks.

The following is a summary of the costs of the cleansing services during 1952 :—



**Refuse Collection**

Total number of loads	...	...	9,720
Total estimated tonnage collected	...	...	17,010
Weight of refuse per 1,000 pop. per day	...	...	33.42 cwts.
Net cost per ton collected	...	...	14/6.27d.
Net cost per 1,000 pop.	...	...	£442/16/5.14d.
Net cost per 1,000 premises	...	...	£1252/8/4.35d.

**Refuse Disposal**

Net cost per ton disposed	...	...	1/7.92d.
Net cost per 1,000 pop.	...	...	£50/8/6.85d.
Net cost per 1,000 premises	...	...	£142/12/6.3d.

**Street Sweeping**

Total sq. yds. of surface cleansed during the year	...	...	13,300,000
Net cost per 1,000 sq. yds.	...	...	£3/3//.6d.
Net cost per 1,000 pop.	...	...	£150/7/1.71d.

**Gully Cleansing**

Total number of gullies cleansed	...	...	48,000
Net cost per 1,000 gullies	...	...	£12/14/2d.
Net cost per 1,000 pop.	...	...	£21/15/8.57d.

The basis of the report is as follows :—

Estimated normal population	...	...	28,000
Approximate number of premises	...	...	9,900
Tonnage collected (estimated)	...	...	17,010
Cost of refuse collection	...	...	£12,399
Cost of refuse disposal	...	...	£1,412
Cost of street cleansing	...	...	£4,210
Cost of gully cleansing	...	...	£610

**Salvage**

Collection of reclaimable materials such as waste paper, rags and metal is carried out by the refuse collectors at the same time a household refuse is collected. The men engaged in this work are paid an incentive bonus at the rate of 20% of the total sales up to £144, and an additional 10% of all sales over this sum. During the year the income from the sale of salvaged materials has been considerably reduced due to the inability of the paper mills to take all our collections. This together with the large decrease in price has led to loss of interest all round. The total income from the sale of salvaged materials up to the end of December was £4,797 of which £4,415 was for the sale of waste paper.

\* \* \*

**HOUSING STATISTICS**

Number of new houses completed in 1952 :—

(a) Council	...	130
(b) Other	...	14
(c) Prefabs	...	Nil

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year :—			
(1) (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health of Housing Acts) ... ..	201	
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	361	
(2) (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925 ... ..	11	
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	32	
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil	
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	12	
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—			
(1)	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	189	
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses where work is in progress but not yet complete ... ..	8	
(3)	Number of notices in course of preparation (not yet served) ...	Nil	
(4)	Number of notices outstanding ... ..	4	
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—			
A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—			
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	Nil	
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a)	By owners ... ..	Nil	
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil	
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—			
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	Nil	
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a)	By owner ... ..	Nil	
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil	
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—			
(1)	Number of dwellinghouse in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	Nil	
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	Nil	
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—			
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil	

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and to all Members of the Staff and workmen of the Department for their unstinted loyalty and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. TUTIN,

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.













